

1-1 By: Ellis S.B. No. 1615  
1-2 (In the Senate - Filed March 14, 2003; March 20, 2003, read  
1-3 first time and referred to Committee on Health and Human Services;  
1-4 April 29, 2003, reported adversely, with favorable Committee  
1-5 Substitute by the following vote: Yeas 8, Nays 0; April 29, 2003,  
1-6 sent to printer.)

1-7 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR S.B. No. 1615 By: Deuell

1-8 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
1-9 AN ACT

1-10 relating to a pilot program for language interpreter services under  
1-11 the medical assistance program.

1-12 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-13 SECTION 1. Subchapter B, Chapter 32, Human Resources Code,  
1-14 is amended by adding Section 32.061 to read as follows:

1-15 Sec. 32.061. LANGUAGE INTERPRETER SERVICES PILOT PROGRAM.

1-16 (a) The Health and Human Services Commission shall establish a  
1-17 pilot program to provide recipients of medical assistance with oral  
1-18 and written language interpreter services in accordance with  
1-19 federal law and applicable publications of the federal Centers for  
1-20 Medicare and Medicaid Services and the Office for Civil Rights of  
1-21 the United States Department of Health and Human Services.

1-22 (b) The Health and Human Services Commission shall  
1-23 establish the pilot program through local governmental entities in  
1-24 at least five sites determined by the commission. The sites must  
1-25 include:

- 1-26 (1) the Harris County Hospital District;  
1-27 (2) the Bexar County Hospital District;  
1-28 (3) the El Paso County Hospital District;  
1-29 (4) the Tarrant County Hospital District; and  
1-30 (5) the Parkland Health and Hospital System.

1-31 (c) The Health and Human Services Commission shall ensure  
1-32 that the pilot program is financed using:

1-33 (1) money provided to the commission for purposes of  
1-34 the program by participating local governmental entities to  
1-35 maximize federal matching money under the medical assistance  
1-36 program; and

1-37 (2) any corresponding federal matching money.

1-38 (d) A participating local governmental entity may provide  
1-39 money to the Health and Human Services Commission by certification  
1-40 or intergovernmental transfer to finance the pilot program as  
1-41 described by Subsection (c)(1).

1-42 (e) Not later than January 1, 2005, the Health and Human  
1-43 Services Commission shall evaluate the pilot program and report to  
1-44 the 79th Legislature on the effectiveness of the program and the  
1-45 feasibility of expanding the program statewide.

1-46 (f) This section expires September 1, 2005.

1-47 SECTION 2. If before implementing any provision of this Act  
1-48 a state agency determines that a waiver or authorization from a  
1-49 federal agency is necessary for implementation of that provision,  
1-50 the agency affected by the provision shall request the waiver or  
1-51 authorization and may delay implementing that provision until the  
1-52 waiver or authorization is granted.

1-53 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives  
1-54 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as  
1-55 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this  
1-56 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this  
1-57 Act takes effect September 1, 2003.

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